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News Release

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April Snow Survey Results

FORT JONES, CA – Employees of the Klamath National Forest have completed their April 1st snow surveys. These measurements are a part of the statewide California Cooperative Snow Survey program that helps the State forecast the amount of water available for agriculture, power generation, recreation, and stream flow releases later in the year.

The Salmon Scott River Ranger District is responsible for eight different monthly snow surveys, seven within the Scott River basin and one in the Trinity River Basin. They found storms which hit the region in the first part of March boost the local snowpack, but warm temperatures in the latter half of the month subsequently melted much of the gains. According to current measurements for April 2016, the snowpack has a slightly below-average depth of 90%, and a near-average water content of 97%, as assessed against historical averages for April 1. Traditionally, the April snowpack measurements are considered to represent the yearly maximum.

The Salmon-Scott snow surveys are measured monthly during the winter and spring months (February-May). District employees travel to specified sites to collect information about snow accumulation in the mountains of the Klamath National Forest, west of Scott Valley. The measuring sites are designated locations that quantify snow depth and moisture content. Snow site locations vary, with some located close to forest roads while others require hours of travel by snowshoe and snowmobile.

The Goosenest Ranger District also completed the Little Shasta annual snow survey, near Martins Dairy Campground, within the Shasta River Basin. On March 30 the average snow depth was 51.7 inches, slightly greater than the average depth of 49 inches. Water content was above-average, at 130%. One year ago the Little Shasta survey had no snow at all.

Snow depth and water content are measured by a snow sampling tube with a cutter end that is driven through the snow pack, measuring depth. The snow core is then weighed to determine the water content (water equivalent). The information is forwarded to the State of California, where the data is compiled with other snow depth reports and becomes part of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys program. The data is managed by the California Department of Water Resources, and more information is available on their website at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow>.

All news releases, including past snow survey results, are posted on the Klamath National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/newsarchives/klamath/newsarchive>.

April 1st 2016 Snow Survey Results Scott River Sub-Basin

Snow Course	Snow Depth			Equivalent Water Content		
	Measured	Historic Average for March	% of Historic Average	Measured	Historic Average for March	% of Historic Average
Middle Boulder 1 (Established 1946 / Elevation 6600')	68.4"	71.4"	96%	26.8"	30.9"	87%
Middle Boulder 3 (Established 1948 / Elevation 6200')	57.8"	63.3"	91%	26.4"	27.3"	97%
Dynamite Meadow (Established 1955 / Elevation 5700')	19.8"	44.7"	44%	9.2"	18.1"	51%
Swampy John (Established 1951 / Elevation 5500')	70.3"	80.0"	88%	30.4"	32.1"	95%
Scott Mountain (Established 1986 / Elevation 5900')	46.0"	49.1"	94%	24.0"	22.3"	108%
Box Camp (Established 1978 / Elevation 6440')	107.0"	87.2"	123%	46.2"	35.4"	130%
Etna Mountain (Established 1951 / Elevation 5900')	59.4"	69.5"	85%	26.4"	27.2"	97%
Wolford Cabin (Established 1949 / Elevation 6150')	82.3"	83.3"	99%	37.5"	34.8"	108%
Total average	90%			97%		

BELOW:

U.S. Forest Service employee acquiring a snow core at the Swampy John site below Etna Pass, March 31, 2016.

Overview of spring conditions on the Etna Mountain site near Etna Pass, March 31, 2016.



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